

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1445

INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IN

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION IN THE US

REF: STATE - 225930

1. SUMMARY: DURING A DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 27 ON THE COMING MEETING OF THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THE KOREAN ITEM AT THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SOUGHT INDIA'S SUPPORT

.
KEWAL SINGH AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S ANALYSIS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN ON THE ISSUE WHEN HE REACHED NEW YORK. THE DCM HAD EARLIER GONE OVER THE DETAILS OF THE ISSUE WITH JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA, NOW ALSO IN NEW YORK, WHO MENTIONED ABSENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THE WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE KOREAN SITUATION. THIS WAS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE COMING UP AT THE PRESENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WE WANTED INDIA'S SUPPORT. THE NORTH KOREANS WANTED THE UN OUT OF SOUTH KOREA. THEY DO NOT WANT THE US TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENCE THERE. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT
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THIS WAS THE SUREST WAY TO BRING ABOUT A RENEWAL OF WAR IN KOREA.

KEWAL SINGH SAID HE QUITE AGREED WITH THIS. HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR INDIA TO TAKE A VERY STRONG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. INDIA WOULD TRY TO TAKE A STAND WHICH "APPRECIATED THE SITUATION." THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE DANGERS OF EXTREMISM IN THE UN. KEWAL SINGH CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIS FRIEND AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN ON THE ISSUE WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK.

3. EARLIER, IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA'S STAND ON THIS ISSUE TO US-INDIA BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE DCM TOOK UP THE KOREAN ITEM WITH JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS TEJA RATHER THAN THE JOINT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN MATTERS. HE TOLD TEJA OF THE US INTENTION TO INFORM NATIONS OF ISSUES TO WHICH WE ATTACHED VITAL IMPORTANCE AND TO TAKE COUNTRIES' VOTES INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOR THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KOREA WAS THE ISSUE MOST VITAL TO OUR INTERESTS AND WE WANTED INDIA'S SUPPORT. THE DCM WENT OVER OUR PROPOSAL AND THE DEFECTS OF THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION AND LEFT A PAPER ON THE SUBJECT AND A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH.

4. TEJA TALKED A BIT ABOUT THE NEW US APPROACH TO SUCH ISSUES. HE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF MANEUVER IN NEW YORK ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, COMMENTING ON THE FIRM US REQUEST TO INDIA FOR SUPPORT RATHER THAN ABSTENTION. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE ITEMS ON WHICH INDIA ALSO WISHED SUPPORT, BUT THE US FOLLOWED THE PRACTICE OF RESERVING ITS POSITION UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE (REFERRING, OF COURSE, TO INDIA'S CANDIDACY FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL). HE THEN MUMBLED SOMETHING ABOUT ABSTENTION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY THE EMBASSY'S PAPER.

5. COMMENT: TEJA IS IN NEW YORK AT PRESENT AND KEWAL SINGH WILL ARRIVE OCTOBER 2 FOR A DAY BEFORE GOING WITH TEJA TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 3. WE RECOMMEND THAT USUN AND THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOW UP WITH BOTH IN THE US.
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